Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 24620 211218Z

47
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 L-03 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-02 PRS-01 EUR-12 /061 W
---------- 108345
R 211137Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4647
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CINCPAC HONO
COMUSMACTHAI

S E C R E T BANGKOK 24620

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, TH
SUBJECT: RLAF AIRPLANES

REF: STATE 272346

1. THE AMBASSADOR RAISED THE QUESTION OF THE RLAF PLANES WITH FONMIN CHATCHAI THIS MORNING IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF INSTRUCTIONS. HE MADE THE ARGUMENTS GIVEN US BY THE DEPARTMENT AND IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE RECENT NAVAL ENGAGEMENT ON THE MEKONG, STRESSED THE POINT THAT SOVIET TECHNICIANS IN VIETIANE COULD EASILY PUT ANY AIRCRAFT WHICH WERE RETURNED INTO FLYABLE CONDITION.

2. CHATCHAI AGREED THAT THE AIRCRAFT SHOULD NOT BE RETURNED TO THE LAO AT THIS TIME AND NOTED JOCULARLY THAT ANY LAO PILOT WHO WAS ALLOWED TO GET INTO AN AIRPLANE WOULD BRING IT BACK TO THAILAND AT ONCE. ONE COULD NEVER SEE FAR INTO THE FUTURE HOWEVER AND THE SITUATION IN LAOS MIGHT EASILY CHANGE. IF, FOR EXAMPLE, THE PRESENT REGIME WERE OVERTHROWN, IT MIGHT BE TO THAILAND'S ADVANTAGE TO BE ABLE TO RETURN THE PLANES. MEANWHILE THE PLANES SHOULD BE KEPT HERE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 24620 211218Z

AND BE ALLOWED TO ROT.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

3. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THE CHANCES OF A COUNTER-REVOLUTION IN LAOS APPEAR TO HIM TO BE VERY SLIM AND THAT THE DEPARTMENT THOUGHT IT WAS WASTEFUL TO HAVE THESE AIRPLANES FALL APART HERE WHEN THE RTAF COULD USE THE TRANSPORTS AND THE PHILIPPINES COULD USE THE T-28S. WITHOUT GOING INTO DETAILS OF PRO-POSED DISTRIBUTION OF PLANES, HE POINTED OUT THAT THE RTAF T-28 FLEET WAS UP TO STRENGTH AND NOW IN-CLUDED ALL THE BEST AIRCRAFT WHICH HAVE COME IN FROM CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM. CHATCHAI THEN DIGRESSED INTO THE QUESTION OF THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL COMBAT AIRCRAFT STATING THAT HE HAD A MEMORANDUM (WHICH HE BRANDISHED) FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTER STATING THAT THAILAND NEEDED ONE SQUADRON OF F-5ES AND THREE SQUADRONS OF OV-10S. THIS DISCUSSION WILL BE RE-PORTED SEPTEL.

4. COMMENT. THIS CONVERSATION CAME OUT ABOUT WHERE WE THOUGHT IT WOULD. THE RTG IS OBVIOUSLY NOT REPEATNOT DESIROUS OF HAVING THE PLANES RETURNED TO THE LAO, BUT FLUSHED WITH THE SUCCESS OF HIS TALKS WITH THE KHMER, CHATCHAI OBVIOUSLY WANTS TO AVOID TAKING ANY STEPS VIS-A-VIS LAOS WHICH MIGHT REBOUND AGAINST THAILAND AT SOME LATER DATE.
WHITEHOUSE

SECRET

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, SURPLUS MILITARY EQUIPMENT SALES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO24620
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750406-0577
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751122/aaaaataf.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 272346
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RLAF AIRPLANES
TAGS: MASS, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006